

Sent to the World

"The Habits of Making Jesus Known"

John 17:15-19

October 7th, 2018

BIG IDEA

Today we'll investigate the value of living a sent life as we seek to develop habits of making Jesus known. In order to have an impact on others, we must walk in the identity as one sent by God to the world around us. It is a lifestyle that we can live out by just being ourselves when we depend on God to guide and empower us every day.

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE

Context for John 17:15-19:

John 17 is known as The High Priestly Prayer. It is Jesus talking to the Father about all that He had come to do on earth. He is recapping and giving an account to the Father on all that He had been up to. He prays for himself, for His current disciples, and then ultimately for all future believers.

John 17:15-19

"I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁷Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth."

MAIN IDEA

The amazing thing about God is that He is about the business of making Himself known. He seeks His own glory because He is the best thing! So, the pressure is off. You don't have to know all of the answers and you can trust that if you walk with Him and your eyes are open, He will use you in the lives of other people.

1. Not Taken Out

John 17:15 – “I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one.”

John 17:18 – “As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.”

Jesus shows us that we are to remain in the places that He has placed us so that we can be a light to others. We are His light-carriers in all the spaces we inhabit each day. The great challenge for us is to embrace this in our minds and hearts and not to shrink back into thinking we have nothing to offer those that are far from God around us.

- a. **Would you say you already see yourself as a “sent person”? What makes it difficult to embrace this identity and call for many people?**

- b. **Can you think of some people or places that you encounter regularly that are in spiritual darkness? How can you be a light-carrier in those places?**

2. Not of This World

John 17:16 – “They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.”

Jesus’ description of His followers as “not of this world” gets our attention because He wants us to remain and to serve where He’s placed us, as well. Christ means for us to be different in how we live and that our lives would be attractive and “questionable” in the sense that those far from God would want more time with us. This lifestyle is a key piece of us living the habits of making Jesus known.

- a. **When you think about your life, would you say that it is attractive to people around you?**



- b. Are there any patterns that you think need to change to be more Christ-like and attractive to the world?**

3. Changed By Truth

John 17:17 – “Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.”

John 17:19 – “And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.”

Jesus is changing us from the inside out. This change is happening continually and is a process. His perfect life allows us to experience incredible change as we cling closely to Him.

- a. Do you find it hard to think that God is bringing about change in your life? Why or why not?**

- b. Oftentimes we think that God is doing more in the lives of people around us than He is in our life. Are there great things God is doing in your life that you need to take more time to celebrate and express gratitude for?**

4. Sent Everyday

John 17:18 – As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.

John 20:21 “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.”

Seeing that Jesus has sent us is a big challenge and also a beautiful opportunity! It is a challenge because many things get in the way of living “sent.”



a. Of these four aspects of missional living, which one would God be calling you to focus on improving right now?

- Having a plan
- Having enough margin in your schedule
- Having teammates (community group or close friends)
- Having the desire

The key to developing a habit of living sent is trusting that God wants to use you in the lives of people. When He puts a face in front of you, begin to pray for that person. Look for ways to strike up a relationship. Live for Jesus in front of him/her for the glory of God!

PRAY

Lord, please give me a clear vision of where and how You've sent me to the context I'm currently in. Give me the courage to walk in confidence and engage with people for Your glory and their good. Amen.

DIG DEEPER

For further study this week:

- [*Surprise the World: The Five Habits of Highly Missional People*](#) – a book from Michael Frost (NavPress)
- [*A Creative Minority*](#) – a book from Jon Tyson
- [*Gaining By Losing*](#) – a book from J.D. Greear

NEXT WEEK'S BIG IDEA

Illuminate: God calls us to follow Him even when the outcome isn't clear. (Genesis 12:1-3)

